

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5529**

1. Opening of Meeting:

The Appeals Board convened at 10:30 a.m., September 14, 2010, at our Oakland Office of Appeals, with Chairwoman Bonnie Garcia presiding.

2. Roll Call: <u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Bonnie Garcia, Chair	x	
George Plescia, Vice Chair	x	
Liz Figueroa	x	
Cindy Montañez	x	
Sharon Runner		x

3. Approval of the Minutes:

The August 10, 2010 minutes were approved by all members present.

4. Chair's Report:

Chair Garcia reported that our staff is working on the backlog as well as it can in the face of the Administration's hiring and overtime freeze, but nonetheless falling behind. EDD has obtained an exemption, but it does not include the CUIAB. We have requested a similar exemption, and hopeful for a response to that request soon. We are thankful that we have an exemption from the furlough order, as that has allowed us to keep our employees working full time.

14. Public Comments:

Item No. 14 was taken out of order, and there were no public comments.

5. Board Member Reports:

There were no reports from the Board members.

6. Assistant Secretary, Labor and Workforce Development Agency, Stephen Egan Report:

Chief ALJ/Chief Executive Alberto Roldan reported that Assistant Secretary Egan is absent as he was called into an Agency meeting. Assistant Secretary Egan will attempt to seek clarification regarding our exemption request.

7. Chief ALJ/Chief Executive and Acting Executive Director Report:

Chief ALJ/Acting Executive Director Alberto Roldan reported that Elena Gonzales has been selected for the Field Operations Headquarters Presiding Judge position. Her first assignment is to the Oakland Office until a permanent PALJ can be found. Chief ALJ/Acting Executive Director Roldan stated that he is very excited to have her as part of the leadership team of the Chief's Office, and commented that she was very gracious about stepping into the Oakland assignment to ensure that they have consistent and stable leadership while a good long-term selection can be made for that position.

The start of a new judges training academy (11 new judges, 2 retired annuitants) has been delayed two weeks due to a serious injury suffered by PALJ Lillian Waters. A number of judges throughout the state will step in to conduct that academy in PALJ Waters' absence. We are all wishing PALJ Waters the best, and hoping for a speedy recovery.

Overall workload continues to be extremely high. The month of August 2010 was the second highest number of new cases in the history of the CUIAB with 43,324 new cases. Despite the high leave month of August, we still managed to close 41,243 cases. We also reduced average case age to a one year low of 45 days, from 47 days in the previous month. As a historical perspective, in 2007 we were averaging 21,401 UI cases a month; in 2010 we are averaging 38,135 UI cases per month.

In the area of facilities, Van Nuys began hearing cases on September 13, and the Santa Ana, Indio and additional 3 hearing rooms in the Los Angeles facility are completed. The final walkthrough for Murrieta is scheduled for September 15. Salinas will be completed in November, as will Visalia, and the Inglewood expansion will be done by December 1. We should have the Chula Vista facility online by the beginning of October.

8. Special Assistant to the Board, Lori Kurosaka Report:

Research Coordinator Janet Maglente reported on behalf of Special Assistant Lori Kurosaka. She reported that DOL has been very positive and supportive of our Corrective Action Plan, and have requested only minor revisions.

Update on CUIAB projects:

Co-Location Pilot Project – This project places CUIAB employees onsite at the Los Angeles Primary Adjudication Center to perform verification and registration on site, and then scanning the documents and transmitting them to appropriate field offices overnight in order to expedite the appeals process.

Electronic Appeals Transfer – We are now in Phase II of this project, dealing with our field decisions. This will be implemented in three phases.

Business Process Reengineering, Enterprise Appeals Project – Karl Rummel of the North Highlands group stated that the project planning initiation and business analysis phases are complete. At the Phase III stage we have submitted all of our draft deliverables, which are in final review with EDD, and we are on track for October implementation. One of the more significant findings is for a more collaborative intake process between EDD and CUIAB staff, with more shared virtual services functions.

9. Chief ALJ, Appellate Operations Branch, Jorge Carrillo Report:

Chief ALJ/AO Jorge Carrillo reported that they registered 2957 cases, made 2660 dispositions, and presently carry a total of 3,135 cases in their inventory. Now that the regulation cases are in effect, AO has many more cases available to be assigned, which should expedite case handling.

Average case age in August was 25 days, the lowest in two years. AO also met all three time lapse standards for the 7th month in a row: 83% of the cases were closed within 45 days, 97% within 75 days and 99% within 150 days.

The average time transmission time of appeals from the field to appellate is now 5.5 days, well below the 16 days it took just over a year ago. Two to three days of that time period is unavoidable, as the transmission time starts from the post mark date when the claimant drops the appeal into the mail.

10. Chief Information Officer, Rafael Placencia Report:

Chief Information Officer Placencia reported that the AO e-mail decision system is now functional, with approximately 300 e-mails nightly at 9:00 p.m. The budget issue is impacting other uncompleted projects, requiring severe prioritization. The unavailability of overtime and reimbursement for travel in particular are problems. Chair Garcia agreed that those problems are seriously undermining the CUIAB's ability to perform its functions.

11. Deputy Director, Administrative Services Branch, Pam Boston Report:

Deputy Director Pam Boston reported that the Procurement Unit exceeded the small business and the disabled veteran business enterprise participation goal for the third straight year. The recommended small business participation goals for both categories are 3%, and we achieved 47% and 9.62%, respectively.

The Language Survey was conducted during the weeks of July 19 and August 2, with 16 cost centers participating and a total of 29,544 public contacts. Fortunately, the survey results did not reveal any bilingual deficiencies.

12. Chief Counsel's Report:

Chief Counsel Ralph Hilton reported that the Agency is now at an all time high in cases, with a total of 275. Just last month 16 new cases were received, reflective of what is going on in the economy. We closed 5 cases last month, all of which affirmed the Board's decision. Board Member workload is continuing to rise, with each member now handling an average of 35 cases each day.

13. Unfinished & New Business

2009/10 and 2010/11 Budgets – no budget discussion

Status of decision review pursuant to CUIC 406(b)

Chief ALJ/Acting Executive Director Roldan reported that with Elena Gonzales' appointment we now have a presiding judge over the unit that will be handling this function.

Regional Support Unit Restructure

In response to inquiry by Chair Garcia, Chief ALJ/Acting Executive Director Roldan stated that we are still using RSU employees to perform registration duties. RSU will move into their new space on December 20, and we are shifting work that is currently handled by Orange County to RSU.

Chair Garcia thanked both Elena Gonzales Sal Cannella for stepping up to help out in Oakland. We have a lot of challenges in all of our offices, but it is great that we have flexible staff willing to help us with these transitional issues. She thanked everyone for their hospitality and the great opportunity for the Board to meet staff statewide when Board meetings are conducted at the field offices.

15. Closed Session:

The Board went into closed session. No votes were reported.

Adjournment